

10 January

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Mr. Dulles spoke with Mrs. Kirk on 11 January. He ~~asked~~ asked her to tell Admiral Kirk that he was going to be away for a week and was sorry he would miss the meeting.

HEA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 2, 1951

Dear Allen:

Your nice letter of December 27, 1950 reached me this morning, as I was away at the end of last week seeing grandchildren, etc.

The invitation to speak before the Council of Foreign Relations on the 15th of January has been given very full consideration. I am sorry to say it appears to be inadvisable at the present time for me to accept your suggestion. I think you will readily perceive the basic considerations governing this decision. While I would like very much to have an opportunity of this sort to speak to the membership, nevertheless it appears wisest not to do so.

However, I would be glad to come to the House late in the afternoon of the 17th or 18th of January for an hour's chat with a very limited group if this would appear worthwhile to you. Such an exchange of views would be beneficial to me, and perhaps my thoughts might stimulate others by a limited discussion. By "limited" I have in mind four or five besides myself. It is in small groups of this sort that freedom of discussion is developed and the conversations kept within strictly classified lines.

Will you let me know whether this sounds suitable to you, either at the Department or at my home address, or even as late as the 16th of January at the Hotel Malton in New York where Lydia and I will be until we sail.

Wynlin

Thanks

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, President,
Council on Foreign Relations, Inc.,
The Harold Pratt House,
58 East 68th Street,
New York 21, New York.

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Thanks for your kindness, and hoping to see
you then, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan".

Alan G. Kirk